

HALL OF RECORDS
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND

Eleventh Annual Report

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS



1926-1927

OFFICE
211 NORTH CALVERT STREET
BALTIMORE - MARYLAND

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Eleventh Annual Report

MARYLAND STATE BOARD

of

MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

1926-1927

GEORGE HELLER
Chairman

ASA C. SHARP
Vice Chairman

MARIE WHITE PRESSTMAN
Secretary and Treasurer

HELEN L. ODOM
Chief Clerk

OFFICE

211 NORTH CALVERT STREET
BALTIMORE - MARYLAND

To His Excellency,

HONORABLE ALBERT C. RITCHIE,
Governor of Maryland.

We have the honor to submit the accompanying report of the activities of the Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1927, giving detailed information as to the films examined and disbursements by and in behalf of the Board.

Of the appropriation to this department for expenses, amounting to \$24,883.80, there reverted to the Treasury the sum of \$847.03. The receipts from fees and sale of seals, etc., for the above period amounted to \$32,498.55, showing a total revenue to the State from this office amounting to \$7,614.75 for the fiscal year.

It is interesting to note that there has been a considerable increase in the business of the office. Receipts from films, original and duplicate, submitted during the year, show an increase of \$2,434.00 over the previous year. Cuts, however, were made in 355 films, as against 684 in 1926. Two films only have been rejected altogether, while 7,535 were approved.

From the above report it appears that the industry in this State, as elsewhere, is making substantial progress, and that a constant effort is being made by the producers to furnish better films.

In the enforcement of the law, the Board has received co-operation from the theatres throughout the State. Only one prosecution was instituted in the case of a foreign film which was exhibited without being censored at a Baltimore theatre. A fine of \$50.00 was imposed in this case.

Two bills were introduced (at the instance of the Board) in the past Legislature. One increased the amount of the bond entered into by members of the Board. This was passed. The second bill was designed to limit the time in which duplicate prints should be submitted for censorship. No time limit, however, could be agreed upon. The law provides for the payment of a duplicate at one-half the rate of the original, if

application is made at the same time, but exchanges make the practise of shipping the duplicate at their convenience, frequently several months, or even a year, later, thus causing both uncertainty in the censoring of the film, and in keeping the records of the office. This the Board desires to obviate. Exchanges have been requested to make shipments of duplicates in a prompt and more systematic manner.

An increase in salaries and wages over the previous year amounted to \$500. No increase in the salaries of the members of the Board has been made since 1916 when the Act creating the Board fixed the salaries of the members at \$2,400 each.

The Board has in the past employed volunteer inspectors both in the city and the counties to assist in the enforcement of the law. Due to the employment of paid inspectors, the Board has decided to discontinue the practise in the city where the inspection is adequate. The volunteer system in the counties will be continued, as it is most difficult to cover outlying districts with any degree of frequency.

The Board has enlarged its projection room at 211 North Calvert Street and purchased an additional screen, thereby making it possible to keep well up with the work of screening the films. Each picture is censored within twenty-four hours of its receipt. The Board keeps a careful check on the condition of all the films submitted for censorship, and complaints of damage and improper handling, formerly made against our operators, are no longer received.

The Board continues to exchange reports with other State Boards in the country, of which there are six including ours (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kansas, and Virginia). Recently the Board of Censors in New York was placed under the Department of Education, that in Virginia under the Legal Department. A bill to place this Board under the Department of Education was defeated in the last Legislature.

The Board advocates no changes in the law, the present statute having been found adequate in all cases.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE HELLER, *Chairman*

ASA C. SHARP, *Vice Chairman*

MARIE WHITE PRESSTMAN, *Secretary*

December 3, 1927

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED

October 1, 1926—September 30, 1927

	Films Original	Films Duplicate	Reels Original	Reels Duplicate	Films Approved	Films Rejected	Films Eliminated
October.....	254	335	804	888	551	0	38
November.....	233	318	800	941	526	0	25
December.....	271	354	862	937	600	0	25
January.....	254	292	808	750	519	0	27
February.....	240	305	798	789	518	0	27
March.....	313	647	905	1,318	913	0	47
April.....	267	502	775	1,007	751	0	18
May.....	258	377	777	906	604	0	31
June.....	355	347	1,058	931	663	1	38
July.....	267	320	763	764	566	0	21
August.....	302	414	924	1,151	676	1	39
September.....	284	383	927	955	648	0	19
	3,298	4,594	10,201	11,337	7,535	2	355

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Films, Original.....	3,298		
Films, Duplicate.....	4,594		
Reels, Original.....		10,201	
Reels, Duplicate.....		11,337	
Films Approved.....			7,535
Films Rejected.....			2
Films Eliminated.....			355
	7,892	21,538	7,892

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

BUDGET ACCOUNT

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1927

Receipts

Balance, September 30, 1926		\$400.00	
State Treasurer, Direct	\$23,259.29		
State Treasurer, Through Comptroller	1,624.51		
Total		24,883.80	\$25,283.80

Disbursements

Salaries and Wages	\$19,744.00		
General Repairs	38.70		
Light, Heat and Power	299.24		
Traveling Expenses	356.69		
Communication	282.34		
Office Supplies and Stationery	198.49		
Printing	105.75		
Motion Picture Machine Supplies	134.00		
Office Equipment	130.08		
Rent	1,950.00		
Insurance	20.00		
		\$23,259.29	

Paid Through Comptroller

Film Approval Seals	\$1,533.75		
Printing	84.50		
Office Supplies and Stationery (C. P. B.)	6.26		
Total		1,624.51	\$24,883.80
Balance, September 30, 1927			\$400.00

Bank Reconciliation

Union Trust Company:		
Balance, September 30, 1927, as per Bank Statement		\$400.00
No Checks Outstanding		

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

GENERAL ACCOUNT

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1927

Receipts

Fees, Original Reels, 10,201 at \$2.00-----	\$20,402.00	
Fees, Duplicate Reels, 11,337 at \$1.00-----	11,337.00	
Fees, Substitute Seals, 657 at \$1.00-----	657.00	
Fines -----	50.00	
Telephone Calls -----	21.83	
Refund, Traveling Expenses-----	30.72	
		<u>\$32,498.55</u>

Disbursements

Remitted to State Treasurer-----	<u>32,498.55</u>
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Bank Reconciliation

Union Trust Company:	
Balance, September 30, 1927-----	\$2,936.22
Outstanding, Check No. 61-----	<u>2,936.22</u>

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
BUDGET OPERATION FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 1927

Income

State Appropriation:		
Salaries and Wages	\$16,510.00	
Amendment from Excess Fees September 23, 1924	900.00	
Amendment from Excess Fees March 30, 1926	1,934.00	
Amendment from Excess Fees September 27, 1926	300.00	
Amendment from Excess Fees July 20, 1927	200.00	
		\$19,844.00
State Appropriation:		
For Expenses	\$5,865.00	
Telephone Receipts Credit to Budget Item No. 18	21.83	
		5,886.83
		\$25,730.83

Expenditures

Salaries and Wages	\$19,744.00	
General Repairs	\$38.70	
Light, Heat and Power	299.24	
Traveling Expenses	356.69	
Communication	282.34	
Office Supplies and Stationery	204.75	
Printing	190.25	
Film Approval Seals	1,533.75	
Motion Picture Machine Supplies	134.00	
Office Equipment	130.08	
Rent	1,950.00	
Insurance	20.00	
	5,139.80	
		\$24,883.80
Unexpended Balance, September 30, 1927		\$847.03

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
RECORD OF PROSECUTIONS FOR YEAR 1926-1927

Date	Title of Film	Where Exhibited	Nature of Offense	Imposed Fine
August 29, 1927	The Feast and the Law	Clifton Theatre, Baltimore	Uncensored Film	\$50.00